Rs.447.22 lakh for Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea in Ganjam distt. of Orissa in the year 2005-06.

An amount of Rs.7235.39 lakh has been sanctioned to the State Government for various tourism projects in the State of Orissa during the Tenth Plan period.

Tourism project of ITDC

1022. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC propose to develop Bhubaneswar, Puri and Satpada as a mega tourism project in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a Centrally-funded project; and

(d) the details of the infrastructure that is proposed to be developed to boost tourism in this region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A project for development of Bhubaneswar-Puri-Chilka as a circuit has been received from the State Government.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respects are examined on the basis of scheme guidelines and *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective heads.

A project – Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit - Bhubaneswar-Dhauli-Puri-Konark has been sanctioned for Rs.720.09 lakh in the year 2005-06.

An amount of Rs.7235.39 lakh has been sanctioned to the State Government for various tourism projects in the State of Orissa during the Tenth Plan period.

Promotion of tourism in Orissa

1023. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a 20-year plan to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action of Government to develop tourist, religious and historic centres in Orissa to boost tourism under this project, with a view to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) As development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State

Governments, the Central Government assisted the States/UTs in the preparation of 20 Year Perspective Plans during 2002 and 2003 with the broad objectives of:

(i) assessing the existing tourism scenario in the States, like services and infrastructure available, heritage and other socio-cultural assets, natural resources, etc.;

(ii) reviewing the status of existing development/investment plans for development of tourism in the States;

(iii) evaluating the existing potential tourist destinations on the basis of the inventory of the tourism products, volume of tourist traffic, infrastructure available, etc.;

(iv) developing sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;

(v) providing plans with short term and long term targets, indicating activities to be undertaken by different agencies within a time frame;

(vi) indicating the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads covering the next 20 years; and

(vii) preparing an action plan for the implementation of identified potential development schemes/projects, and for development of infrastructure in conformity with policy objectives.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments including that of Orissa, for development of specific destinations, tourism circuits and organization of festivals based on proposals received from them. During the Tenth Plan, Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 72.35 crore had been provided to the State Government of Orissa for 37 tourism projects.

Tourism infrastructure development fund

1024. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India for the first time is considering to set up tourism infrastructure development fund with the help of reputed financial institutions including the Asian Development Bank to the tune of $ 1.5 billion;

(b) if so, whether from this fund infrastructure companies would be roped in to build roads, power stations, sewage, etc. in the country's leading tourist destinations;

(c) if so, whether at present many tourist sites do not have these basic infrastructure facilities; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is at this stage no ADB proposal for establishing a tourism infrastructure fund.

(b) Question does not arise.